

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10

/117 W

-----128863 121552Z /44

R 121300Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0343

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 COTONOU 0055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, DM

SUBJ: BENIN HOSTS ANTI-MERCENARY CONFERENCE AS PART OF JANUARY

16 NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY WEEK

SUMMARY: NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY WEEK INAUGURATED IN BENIN AS PRESIDENT KEREKOU OPENED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MERCENARY ACTIVITIES JANUARY 9. IN ADDITION TO DELEGATIONS FROM SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES, REPRESENTATIVES FROM PATRIOTIC FRONT, POLISARIO FRONT, AFRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION, SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, AND SOUTH MOLUCCANS WERE PRESENT. ALTHOUGH KEREKOU PLEDGED EXPECTED SOLIDARITY WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, IN KEEPING WITH CLOSE BENINESE-ALGERIAN RELATIONSHIP, HE FOCUSSED HEAVILY ON POLISARIO STRUGGLE. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB) PRESIDENT MATHIEU KEREKOU JANUARY 9 LED OPENING CEREMONIES FOR WEEK-LONG INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MERCENARY ACTIVITIES WITH SPEECH PRAISING NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD, WHILE CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM, PUPPET GOVERNMENTS (FANTOCHISME), CAPITALISM, ZIONISM, EXPANSIONISM, AND APARTHEID.

A. RHODESIA-ZIMBABWE: KEREKOU PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF PATRIOTIC FRONT FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHOSE EFFORTS HAD THROWN ILLEGAL SALISBURY REGIME INTO "PANIC AND DISARRAY". HE CREDITED THIS PANIC AND CONFUSION TOGETHER WITH "UNBRIDLED AND DIABOLICAL DESIRE OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM TO SAFEGUARD ITS ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA" WITH PROMOTING "SO-CALLED PACIFIC SOLUTIONS" INTENDED TO IMPOSE AN ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT ON THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. HE SAID BENIN WOULD SUPPORT ARMED STRUGGLE UNTIL A JUST SETTLEMENT SATISFYING THE NEEDS OF THE BLACK MAJORITY IS ACHIEVED.

B. SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND NAMIBIA: KEREKOU DENOUNCED "UNDER-HANDED MANEUVERS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM" FOR TRYING TO STOP THE MARCH OF HISTORY BY MEANS OF THE WINDHOEK FORMULA AS WELL AS THROUGH THE "SO-CALLED NEGOTIATIONS" BETWEEN FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES AND THE VORSTER REGIME. HE CALLED THE LATTER EFFORTS "DECEITFUL MANEUVERS UNDERTAKEN AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE IN CONTEMPT OF PERTINENT CONFIDENTIAL

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RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) AND ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)". KEREKOU PLEDGED "ACTIVE AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT" FOR THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) IN ITS DEMANDS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AND GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD UNDER UN SUPERVISION.

C. SOUTH AFRICA/AZANIA; DESCRIBING SOWETO AS THE HEROIC SYMBOL OF THE AZANIAN PEOPLE'S DETERMINATION TO BREAK THE "GAROTTE OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION", KEREKOU REJECTED ANY COMPROMISE WITH VORSTER REGIME "AS ADVOCATED BY CERTAIN REACTIONARY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WHO BRAZENLY AND SHAMEFULLY BETRAY THE CAUSE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS."

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D. WESTERN SAHARA/SAHARAOUI DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC:
KEREKOU PRAISED EFFORTS OF POLISARIO FRONT TO RECOVER SAHARA-
AOUI PEOPLE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE FROM MAURITANIA
AND MOROCCO. HE HEAPED ABUSE ON "CERTAIN STATES WHO THROUGH
CRIMINAL INTERVENTION IN THE AREA SEEK DANGEROUSLY AND IN
VAIN TO PROLONG THE CONFLICT". KEREKOU PLEDGED
COMPLETE
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PLISARIO.

E. MIDDLE EAST: PRESIDENT CALLED ON ALL PROGRESSIVE STATES TO
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REMAIN ALERT TO "DOUBLE-GAME" OF IMPERIALIST POWERS IN SEEKING
TO DEPRIVE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE OF THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. HE
DEMANDED FULL PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZ-
ATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE.

F. ANGOLA: KEREKOU DENOUNCED FLNA AND UNITA'S "TREACHEROUS
ALLIANCE" WITH INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM, THE SMITH REGIME AND
THE VORSTER GOVERNMENT. HE ACCUSED THEM OF BRINGING IN MERCEN-

ARIES AFTER THE DEBACLE SUFFERED ON NOVEMBER 11, 1975 AT THE HANDS OF THE MPLA.

G. OTHER MOVEMENTS: THE BENINESE PRESIDENT RESTATED GPRB'S SUPPORT OF THE FRETILIN MOVEMENT IN EAST TIMOR AND THE SIWALIMA SOUTH MOLUCCAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. (FYI BENIN HAS GIVEN REFUGE TO A GENERAL WHO SUPPOSEDLY LEADS THE MOVEMENT, A LADY WHO IS CALLED THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND SEVERAL OTHER UNIDENTIFIED MOLUCCANS WHO HAVE MADE THE FORMER AMERICAN DCM'S RESIDENCE THEIR HEADQUARTERS.)

2. KEREKOU DEVOTED REST OF SPEECH TO JANUARY 16, 1977 MERCENARY ATTACK ON BENIN. HE ATTEMPTED TO LINK THE ABORTED COUP D'ETAT TO EFFORTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM TO BRING DOWN PROGRESSIVE REGIMES OR ANNIHILATE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD. HE CALLED ON ALL PARTICIPANTS AT CONFERENCE TO JOIN IN FORMATION OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST FRONT WHICH COULD COUNTERACT FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO RELIABLE INFORMATION, CONFERENCE, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN BENIN'S IMAGE AS A LEADER OF AFRICAN "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES, HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND UNDERWRITTEN BY ALGERIA, WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM MANY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. PROMINENCE OF ALGERIAN ROLE WAS UNDERSCORED BY ATTENTION PAID BOTH TO POLISARIO, WHICH APPEARS CONFIDENTIAL

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TO HAVE SENT LARGEST DELEGATION, AND TO ALGERIANS, FOR WHOM KEREKOU INTERRUPTED

LIS SPEECH TO WELCOME LATE ARRIVALS

AND EMBRACE DELEGATION LEADER. ALONG WITH BENINESE LOCAL BAND AND FOLKLORIC DANCERS WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO MAKE THE FOUR-AND-HALF HOUR CEREMONY MORE TOLERABLE, GPRB DEVOTED HALF HOUR OF PROGRAM TO A POLISARIO FOLK/ROCK GROUP (THE EXCRUTIATING SOUNDS OF WHICH DID LITTLE TO WIN FRIENDS FOR THE POLISARIO

AMONG THE RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC CORPS). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE POLISARIO MAY OPEN A LOCAL OFFICE OR "EMBASSY" TO HAVE AN OPERATING BASE FOR CONTACTS IN W. AFRICA.

4. DELEGATIONS WERE SENT FROM FOLLOWING COUNTRIES AND/OR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS: ALGERIA, ANGOLA, BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, CUBA, GHANA, GUINEA, HUNGARY, LIBERIA, LIBYA, IRAQ, NIGER, NIGERIA, N. KOREA, POLAND, ROUMANIA, SOMALIA, TANZANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, ZIMBABWE, POLISARIO FRONT, SIWALIMA MOLUCCANS, PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY, AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION, LATIN AND AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION AND THE KWAME NKRUMAH CULTURAL COMMITTEE. DELEGATES NAMES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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